

([filing 28](#)), alleging that Brandon L. Taylor (“Taylor”), the driver of the vehicle in which Cusatis was riding, was negligent in the operation of that vehicle and caused the accident, in whole or in part. On November 20, 2012, the Taylor Estate filed a Counterclaim ([filing 59](#)) against Defendants, seeking general damages for wrongful death and special damages for medical, funeral and burial expenses, in connection with Taylor’s death.

DISCUSSION

Trial of this case is presently scheduled for February 19, 2013. The Taylor Estate argues that a continuance is warranted because its Counterclaim was only recently filed and its attorney has not had the opportunity to complete discovery. The Court finds these arguments unpersuasive and will not reschedule trial of this case.

The Taylor Estate entered into a settlement agreement with Plaintiff Cusatis on or about December 5, 2011, and the Taylor Estate was brought into this litigation via Defendants’ Third-Party Complaint on May 23, 2012. Thus, the Taylor Estate cannot argue that it is without knowledge of this lawsuit or the circumstances giving rise to it. Moreover, the Taylor Estate and Plaintiff Cusatis have asserted nearly identical claims of negligence against Defendants and extensive discovery has already taken place between Defendants and Plaintiff Cusatis. As such, any additional discovery that the Taylor Estate could conduct in this case would, in all likelihood, be duplicative and serve only to increase the costs of litigation.

Further, given the Court’s trial calendar, continuing the trial in this case would result in this matter not being heard until July, 2013, at the very earliest. It has now been two years since the accident and the Cusatis family is ready to have this litigation behind them, for both financial and emotional reasons. The facts of this case are fairly straight-forward, this being true, keeping the trial date as set would not unduly prejudice the Taylor Estate.

For these reasons,

parties so that the Taylor Estate appears as a party plaintiff in this action. ([Filing 63.](#))

IT IS ORDERED that the Estate of Brandon Taylor's Motion to Continue Trial ([filing 61](#)) is denied.

DATED January 7, 2013.

BY THE COURT:

**S/ F.A. Gossett
United States Magistrate Judge**